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November 3, 1969

Mr. Herb Finch, Manager  
Republic Cresoting Company  
7200 Walker  
St. Louis Park, Minnesota

Dear Herb:

This will confirm our Tuesday, October 20, 1969 meeting which included Mr. Justin, your chief chemist, and Mr. Harvey McPhee, City Sanitarian, regarding the Cresote plants operation and the preliminary water samples taken of our well supply. At this meeting, I attempted to explain as factually as possible the seemingly critical situation which exists and the action required. I have since received additional information which even emphasizes more vividly my request that immediate action be taken by your firm to prevent and eliminate the contamination of the City's water system and ground penetration.

As you will recall, I indicated to you that I wanted to bring this matter to your attention inasmuch as the water samples appear to exceed the public health standards for phenol concentration for drinking water. In addition, I outlined to you the real dilemma in which the City faces regarding storm sewer installations in this area because of the ground contamination of various oils, etc. which would not be permitted to discharge into the creek or into other areas. The preliminary study points out the problem quite simply and emphasizes the critical nature of the situation. While I am not prepared to verify that all of the contaminants which have been found to exist in the ground or in the City's water supply come directly from your firm, evidence points to the fact that the greatest portion does. In addition to the water pollution problem, we also have an odor and air problem which must be taken into consideration at the same time.

I am not sure what action the Council will take once they receive the preliminary report from its consultants on its ground water investigation. However, I believe that the Council would be remiss if some action was not taken to prevent and to eliminate the situation which has been found during the preliminary ground water investigative program. It would appear that the first step the Republic Cresoting Plant could take is to eliminate the seepage of any more contaminants on the ground which would

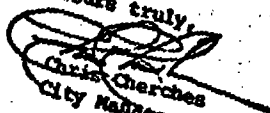
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percolate into the soil and gradually flow into the various water strata in which the City and other communities obtain their drinking water supply. Naturally, this is only one of the many problems which exists in this area and it is the responsibility of the City Council, as you know, to attempt to work out a solution to solve such a serious and potential health problem.

As I mentioned to you at our conference, it would appear to be highly desirable to have one of your chief engineers from your company to meet with our consultant to discuss this problem. Following this meeting, I believe it would then behoove and anyone from your home office who wishes to do so, to meet with our City Council and frankly discuss this situation. Time is at an essence and I would urge you to attempt to set up some meeting within the next two or three weeks with our City Council and hopefully much sooner between your technician and our consultant regarding this problem. I do not intend to make an issue of this matter publicly but as we discussed before, I am sure that you can understand that should some of the information in which we now have is released publicly, that there will be serious problems arising and might necessarily force the Council into action which would not be in agreement with your firm but would be mandatory from the responsibility that a City Councilman must bear. Therefore, if possible, I would urge you to establish at the earliest possible date a meeting with someone from your engineering staff and with our water consultant to review this entire problem and program of prevention and elimination. Following such a meeting, we could then schedule an informal meeting with our City Council to review this problem in detail. Because of the critical nature of this matter, I do not believe that we should hesitate to place this on the top of the priority list and to establish a meeting in the immediate future. I shall be waiting to hear from you regarding this matter.

Yours truly,

  
Chris Cherches  
City Manager

CC:cc

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cc J. Ryan  
R. J. Doyle

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